(b) if so, what are the names of these banks;

(c) since when these vacancies have not been filled up; and

(d) by when Government propose to fill these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) and (b) Vacancies of part-time non-official directors on the Boards of Directors exist in respect of all the 20 nationalised banks.

(c) Most of these vacancies have arisen since January, 1985.

(d) Action to identify suitable persons for nomination as part-time non-official directors on the Boards of nationalised banks is in hand and the endeavour is to complete the process soon.

Sino-Pak Agreement on Nuclear Cooperation

13. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Government spokesman made a remark on the recent agreement between Pakistan and China on Nuclear Cooperation as a frivolous agreement; and

(b) if so, whether Government consider that the remark of the spokesman of the Ministry accurately reflects the seriousness of Government over the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) No spokesman of the Government of India made such a remark.

(b) Question does not arise.

Seizure of gold bars at Sahar International Airport

14. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on August 8, 1986 Custom officials seized about 140 gold bars at Bombay's Sahar International Airport and apprehended three employees of the Soviet Airlines, Aeroflot;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is the estimated value of gold smuggled into the country during each of the last three years and so far during the current year and through what channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) On 8th August, 1986, the officers of Customs Collectorate, Sahar Airport, Bombay, keeping a discreet watch over Aeroflot Flight No. SU-560 noticed two traffic agents of Aeroflot moving in a suspicious circumstances. On noticing the Customs Officers, one of the agents ran away leaving behind a folder in the passage of aero bridge. He was apprehended along with three other traffic agents. Examination of the abandoned folder resulted in the recovery and seizure of 140 gold bars of 10 tolas each of foreign origin collectively valued at Rs. 34.85 lakhs. Assorted foreign currencies equivalent to Rs. 7404 were also seized. In this connection, all the four persons were arrested.

(c) Report received by the Government and seizures made indicate that gold continues to be sensitive to smuggling into the country. Gold is smuggled by air, sea, land routes and through passengers in their baggage and on their person. Smuggling being a clandestine activity does not, by its very nature, lend itself